



The Guardian

VOLUME 38, Issue 9 September 2007

Join the SPOG PAC Today, Your Future is NOW

By The Guardian Staff



Seattle City Council Candidate Tim Burgess meets with SPOG representatives Roger Dixon, Tom McLaughlin and Deb Nicholson out on the campaign trail to discuss public safety issues.

SPOG has established a Political Action Committee (PAC), so that we can back our endorsements with financial contributions to candidates and initiatives that support Seattle Police. It is a fact that money drives the political system, and those seeking office or re-election need the resources to get their message out to the voters. SPOG should not sit on the sidelines while elected officials decide the fate of our members. Whether we like it or not, we are in the political arena.

SPOG knows that we need to be engaged in the political process and now we need your help to get there. Sign up today for the SPOG PAC. We need you, our members, to give to the PAC so that we can stay in the political arena to fight for the interests of every member. Call the Guild Office at (206) 767-1150 today, go online to download a deduction form at www.seattlepoliceguild.org, or fill out the form that was mailed to you in August.

Gone But Not Forgotten



Officer Tom Springer #4822

EOW: 8-06-07

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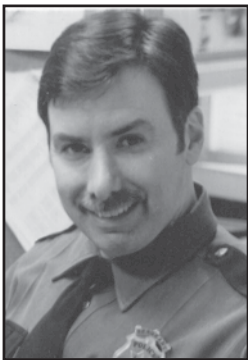
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President's Message

By Sergeant Rich O'Neill, SPOG President



Back in my traffic days, officers were assigned the same intersection for an entire season of Husky football. The reasoning was that an officer would learn the traffic pattern and become very proficient if they had the same intersection each game. One year, I was assigned the intersection from “you know where.” Union Bay Place NE and NE 45th Street is to the east of University Village. After a sellout football game, there are five streets and access points that all converge together into that one intersection. Besides setting up “10,000 traffic cones” you had to control pedestrians and cars coming at you from the five different directions. The state of things in Seattle and SPD remind me of that intersection. I believe we have many ill-conceived decisions that have been made over the years all getting ready to converge at the same intersection. The problem is there is no one standing in the intersection taking charge and directing traffic. Very simply it is a recipe for disaster. Another way of saying this is “you reap what you sow.” Seattle is reaping what they have sowed. The first road heading towards the intersection is the staffing crisis. To anyone who reads the personnel orders, it is very obvious that SPD is not going to meet its’ hiring goals this year. The department has even acknowledged publicly that the goals won’t be met. On the last set of orders alone, 8 recruits walked in the door and 7 officers exited. The officers leaving are not all retiring. Many of these officers are going to work for other local departments. Why is that? Years ago, officers left smaller departments and came to SPD. Why the change? Years ago when SPD announced that they were hiring, thousands signed up for the exam. Now, we are lucky if we get a few hundred. Again, why the change? Some will try and blame the good economy, others mistakenly claim our potential recruits are all serving in the armed forces, so I guess they will try and blame the President for that one. The bottom line is that many in city government will not accept the fact that their policies, statements, and decisions have created this crisis. These poor decisions are now coming home to roost. The staffing levels have been allowed to dwindle, so that officers have a difficult time getting days off. Officers are answering calls and catching the wrath of upset citizens who want to know why it took them an hour to respond. While on those calls, the officers aren’t quite sure how long it will take their nearest backup unit to arrive, if they were to need assistance. At one time, SPD could boast that our officers had plenty of quick back-up. Citizens are screaming for more police, the local tabloids (when they are not bashing the police) are reporting that the Pike and Pine corridor is out of control, but some in elected office would rather focus on mandatory table scrap recycling.

The next road that is heading for the intersection is the frustration of being expected to do “more with less.” Officers are now trained to intervene in “active shooter situations.” In years past, that was the job of the highly trained SWAT team. Instead of moving away from a chemical cloud, officers are now trained to don chemical suits and enter the hot zone. Officers are also now expected to perform to a higher, national standard of accreditation called CALEA. This “do more with less” road leads to officer frustration and burnout.

The next road heading for the crisis intersection is the pay and benefits offered to Seattle Police Officers. At one time, Seattle Police were the highest paid in the state. Why isn’t the largest police agency in the state also the highest paid? SPD ranks near the bottom of our west coast comparable cites in total compensation. And did you know that none of them are nationally accredited? How come the City Council has no problem making themselves one of the highest paid councils in the nation? Last year, a councilperson said that “you get what you pay for.” I agree and Seattle is getting what they pay for in vacant academy seats! Other cities have recognized the situation and have offered their officers signing bonuses, education incentives, take home cars, forgivable loans for buying a residence in the city, and so on and so on... What does Seattle continually offer its’ officers? Cost of living increases! And that usually comes after the officers work for months and sometimes years with an expired contract. Is that how a city shows its’ appreciation for its’ police officers? Years upon years of offering “cost of living” increases is reaping its’ rewards. City leadership is convinced that police officers should be treated the same as every other city worker, as if the profession does not warrant any special benefits. Other than the Fire Department, what other city department asks it workers’ to risk their lives when they come to work?

LEOFF 2 Retirement Road is also causing problems as it heads toward the intersection. In Washington, you work 30 years for

60% of your pay. Work the same amount of time in California and you receive 90%. Many LEOFF 2 officers are also realizing that when they retire, they have to pay for their own medical insurance. So you work a stressful job for 30+ years, wear a bullet proof vest to work each day, put your life on the line for others, and when you retire....you are on your own! Yes, the dismal retirement situation is reaping its’ rewards. A short, but important side alley to the Retirement Road is the Sick Leave Cash-out Crisis. The city continues to bury its head in the sand when we illustrate that many officers have accumulated over 1,000 hours of sick time. Rather than use their earned benefit, the city expects the officers to cash that in at 25 cents on the dollar upon retirement. Oh, that is going to happen!

Bash the Police Parkway is also on this map. Would you sign up to work in a city where the local press and some political leaders are infatuated with second-guessing your every action? Where they have a blatant disregard for your collective bargaining agreement? Where they listen to the same “thirty professional protestors,” as if they spoke for the majority of taxpayers? A recent news reporter seemed incredulous that an anonymous officer would mention that officers, who aren’t aggressive, don’t get complaints. Ya think? Who in their right mind would want to be subjected to getting blasted in the media because you arrested a chronic drug dealer for drugs? (In case you missed it, the 8-time felon got popped again, so he will soon be the 9-time felon. When he hits double figures, maybe he can serve on the NAACP’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Police Misconduct.) Do our potential recruits read the newspapers and watch TV? Let’s see, I can work in a community, closer to my home, get paid more, get a take home car, incentives for furthering my education, enjoy favorable police coverage in my local papers, and have politicians who respect my profession.....or I can work in Seattle. Yes, years of slamming the police is reaping its’ rewards.

There is a “good road” that is heading toward the intersection and that one is citizen frustration. In my position, I hear it loud and clear. Like they do with many of these other issues, city leaders are still ignoring it, hoping it will go away. People are not going to spend a half million on a city condo and then have to step over the vagrants in the doorway or wait for an hour for the police to arrive. They are fed up and they do hold the answer to this crisis. The answer is to elect politicians “who get it.” Politicians who understand that it does not matter how many parks and libraries you have, if the citizens do not feel safe, it is all for naught. Politicians who realize that a well staffed and equipped police department is essential. It is more important than focusing on greenhouse gases and table scraps! Politicians who realize that merely announcing that you will hire more officers is NOT ENOUGH. They need to attract new recruits and keep experienced officers by offering attractive pay and benefit packages, which keep pace with other cities. Politicians who are smart enough to realize that “thirty professional protestors” do not speak for the majority of Seattle citizens who like the police and want to see a lot more of them on patrol.

All these roads are on a collision course. We can do our part by getting involved in the political process. We need to hold these politicians accountable for their actions. We need to urge voters to vote for those candidates who are going to be leaders. A leader who will get in the middle of all these intersecting roads and correct the situation. We have had enough of those who do nothing but create gridlock! At the next election, those politicians should be sent home to sort their table scraps!

A somber ending to my article this month as we mourn the loss of Officer Tom Springer who was tragically killed in a traffic accident while on vacation. Tom not only served Seattle for almost 24 years, but he also served his country in Vietnam. We have lost a dedicated family man and a patriotic public servant. Tom will be missed. May he rest in peace!

Take care of each other today, for no one is guaranteed a tomorrow!

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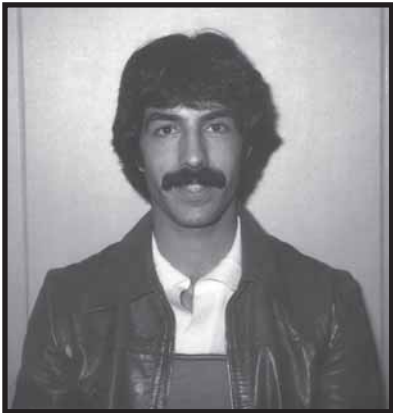
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By Clark Elster, SPD Retired

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Innocent Until Proven Guilty

By Officer Steve Pomper, East Precinct

Am I wrong to be concerned about the way some police administrations around the country routinely fire their officers who’ve only been charged, but not yet convicted of a crime? Last I heard we, police officers, were in the due process biz. You’ve all heard about that, presumption of innocence, nonsense that’s all the rage in the civilian world.

Perhaps police administrators can explain how this policy is good for a police department. Even a lowly patrol officer can understand that, if someone is presumed innocent until proven guilty, but is terminated from his job upon a mere allegation, then isn’t the individual being fired still legally *innocent*? Anyone think the firing might be seen as prejudicial if the officer goes to trial?

I can understand why an administration might choose to place an accused officer in a low profile administrative position or place the officer on paid administrative leave. However, to preemptively fire an officer based upon allegations of a crime, often after a man or woman has given many years of service to their community is, to say the least, questionable. If the officer is found guilty of the crime, then chuck the key into Puget Sound, but until then, how about giving an accused officer the benefit of the doubt?

Police administrations should consider how the rank and file views such actions. Firing an officer whose simply accused can have a chilling affect on already demoralized officers. When an administration fires an officer because of an allegation of criminal behavior, absent a conviction, each of us might imagine ourselves in that unenviable position. Every police officer has had or will have at least a minor false allegation leveled against them during their career; in this profession it’s not a stretch to imagine being slammed with a major one. The public is watching and scumbags are a part of the public too. What’s to keep Joe or Josephine Vermin from making some “credible” felony allegation against an officer? As Rich O wrote last month, “the bad guys are already watching us with sinister intent, and as for a “good citizen’s” word against a cop’s word, you know where we cops stand these days—just read the papers and blogs. Never mind just the rodents out to get us, how about discontented girlfriends and boyfriends and spouses, or disgruntled recipients of justice. Regardless of the officer’s past good behavior and stellar record on the department, if some scum accuses an officer of committing a felony crime, (remember, being armed is an occupational hazard for us; anything we do, we can also be accused of being armed while doing it, often automatically raising the level of the offense to felony) and if the officer

was indeed at the location for a legitimate purpose, based upon current policies, wouldn’t a department have to fire the officer?

Consider the New Orleans P.D. officers who were recently acquitted by a judge for alleged excessive force against a, “retired school teacher.” Now, police arresting resisting suspects rarely look good on video; especially when that video only shows, over and over—and over, the results of what the suspect had brought on himself, and his subsequent arrest, and not what had precipitated the incident. But, it’s tough for patrol officers to watch these incidents, not as reasonable people who might naturally be affronted, or even offended, by the perceived “brutality,” but as reasonable police officers who’ve been trained to bring resisting suspects under control as soon as possible, using as the force necessary, in order to avoid an escalation, which could include a suspect obtaining an officer’s weapon and, just like that, an officer doesn’t go home to his family that night.

A bit closer to home, I have a good friend with another Washington State agency who suffered through one of these nightmarish scenarios. He was as helpless as a fish, without fins, in a barrel, from the moment his angry girlfriend put her plan into action, after accusing him of assault. To make it worse, did his department stand behind him? Nope; his administration was only too happy to play the useful idiots for her, and fired his presumed innocent ass, based solely on her accusations, as there were no witnesses. I won’t go into details, I’m certain most folks reading this “get it,” but after being tortured with the stress of false accusations, media reporting, and court proceedings, my friend was acquitted, sued to get his job—his life—back, and won. Can he recover the health damage done by the stress? No—not that anyone cares.

And let’s consider how this affects our present recruiting disaster? Like I’ve written previously, potential recruits are watching everything we, as a city, do before deciding whether or not to work behind a badge in Seattle. If Seattle is firing officers who are accused of and not convicted of crimes, how do you think that plays in their decision-making process?

Police administrations should honor an officer’s presumption of innocence until that officer is found guilty in a court of law. I understand that society holds it cops to a higher standard, but higher than the U.S. Constitution?

Free Estate Planning For SPD Officers

By Ford Clary, Co-Founder, Wills For Heroes, Washington

Seattle Police officers are cordially invited to take advantage of the Wills for Heroes program.

Wills for Heroes offers FREE estate planning to first responders and is sponsored by the Washington State Bar Association. The program was started after 9/11 and is in its second year in Washington.

Police officers who are interested sign up for an appointment, fill out a questionnaire, meet with a volunteer attorney, and leave with completed estate planning documents, including wills, powers of attorney, and health care directives. The program is completely free and is a great opportunity to plan for your family; it is available for police and their spouses.

The next Wills for Heroes clinic will be Saturday, September 22, 2007 in Seattle. Appointments are available between 9 am and 3pm. Additional information regarding the program will soon be available in the Members Only section of the new guild website at www.seattlepoliceguild.org. To schedule an appointment, send an email message to wills4heroes@seattlepoliceguild.org. There are a limited number of openings, so schedule your appointment soon.

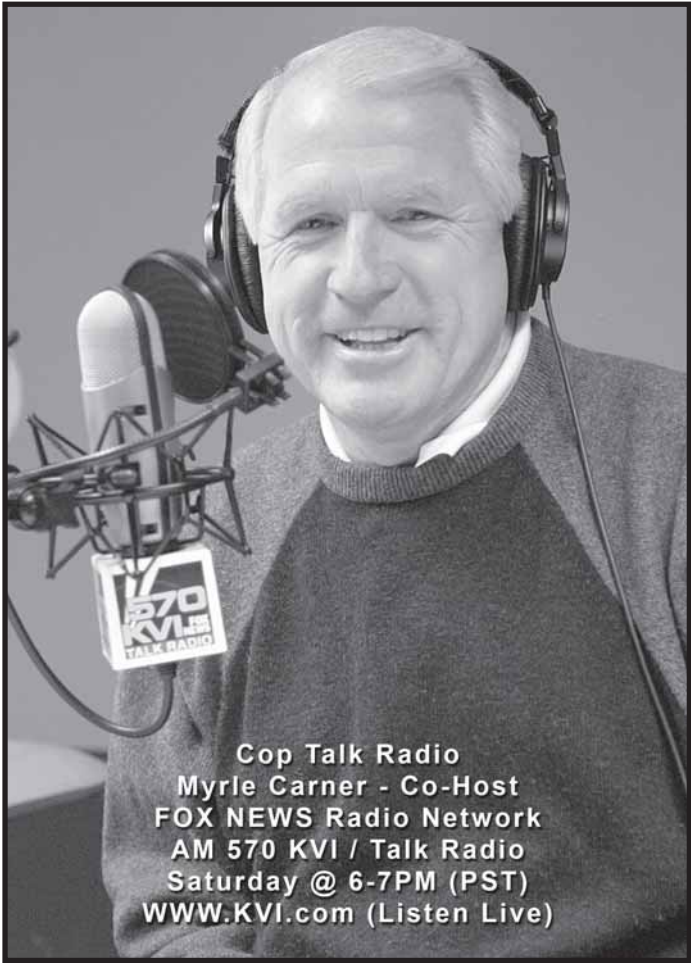
Contact Christie-Lynne Bonner (206-684-9263) for further information.

[Note: This program is designed to provide basic estate planning and may not be appropriate for those with large or complicated estates. This would include an estate with assets in excess of \$750,000 or \$1.5 million for a married couple.]

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I do not have email addresses for all of the great writers who were published in the August *Guardian*. *The Guardian* is always great, but this is one of the best editions ever. It was thrilling to see the way the authors took on those who would denigrate and belittle the protectors of our city. My greatest wish is that the public could have access to these precious thoughts expressed by officers who truly care about public safety. – Howard Monta, SPD Retired.



Officer of the Month

By Officer Christopher Hall, West Precinct

The SPOG Officers of the Month for August 2007 are Officers Tim Liston, Darryl D’Ambrosio, Aaron Johnson and Adam Thorp of the South Precinct, as nominated by Detective Sergeant Guy Pratt for their investigation and arrests of serial robbery suspects.

On July 18, 2007 Officers Johnson & D’Ambrosio responded to a strong-arm robbery call. The officers immediately recognized this call to be part of a pattern and were aware of a possible suspect vehicle. Later that evening, Officer Thorp located and stopped the suspect vehicle. Officers Johnson & D’Ambrosio responded to the scene and located some of the victim’s property in the vehicle. After Miranda, the suspects then admitted to several robberies and advised them where other stolen property had been hidden. One of the suspects also identified two additional male suspects in the robberies. The male suspects were also suspects in a KCSO homicide of a cab driver where the driver was shot and his cab burned near SeaTac. Detective Sergeant Pratt notes in his nomination, “Officer Liston was Acting Sergeant during the shift; he screened the incident and assisted with the direction of the investigation. The completed incident report, victim/witness/officer/and suspect statements were exceptional. Because of the above mentioned officer’s dedication numerous serious and violent crimes have been solved.”

Also nominated this month:

Tom Umporowicz nominated Officers Jake Briskey and Jimmy Stewart for

their overall attitude and methods of dealing with the crime problems in their district. Some quotes from the nomination: “These two officers take the time to address the root causes of crime in the city.” “Officer Stewart refuses to ‘stand down’ in chaotic situations, rather, he charges forward.” “[Officer Briskey] challenges [suspects] by asking them to “step up to the plate” and take responsibility for their actions. He encourages them to “man up” and confront their issues. He takes the time to talk with suspects, especially young criminals, in his district. Officer Briskey furthers his mentoring of criminals in his district by inviting them to participate in physical activity, such as running and contact sports, giving them an outlet for their hostility towards society and the police.” “The suspect was splashing around the lake, taunting the officers and holding a fishing pole in one hand, a beer in the other. When the officers arrived, they promptly waded in after the suspect and took him to jail.”

Lieutenant James Koutsky nominated Officers Mike Settle and Rick Nelson after they were recognized by the FBI for their work in identifying individuals that were of concern to the FBI. The certificates states, in part, “Your performance has been in the highest traditions of effective law enforcement, and you can be proud of your many accomplishments in support of the task force’s objectives. The FBI thanks you for a job well done and wishes you well in your future endeavors.”

Officer Steve Kaffer nominated Officer P.J. Fox for his work in getting DOC violators off the streets. In May and

June alone he netted 15 DOC related arrests with Officer Kaffer’s team alone.

Sergeant Robert Benson nominated Sergeant Robert Gilson and Officers John Evanson and Trung Nguyen for their actions in saving the life of a despondent war veteran as she perched on a ladder and was placing a noose around her neck. Their quick and decisive actions prevented a suicide and allowed this war vet to get the help she needed.

Sergeant Mike Brady (of fame from last month) nominated Officer Mike Cross for his investigation into a threats case where a disgruntled former employee threatened his former boss with a gun. Officer Cross made phone contact with the suspect who swore he would not be taken alive and would “shoot it out” with officers of confronted. Through extensive follow-up and pressure on the suspect’s family, the suspect eventually surrendered at the precinct a few days later.

I am glad to see so many nominations this month. All the nominees did great work. Keep the nominations coming.

RETRACTION: *The Guardian* would like to retract some of the claims that were made in last month’s edition. The claims of Sergeant Brady were submitted too close to the deadline for our fact checkers to verify. After several complaints, the contents of the article were reviewed and the following information was discovered.

Ballard High School denied any knowledge of a student named Michael Brady. This may have been an oversight on their part, or an intentional omission to distance themselves from Brady’s claims.

The USMC verified that Michael Brady was “an average grunt” and stated the closest he had ever been to the SEALs was when he utilized a weekend pass and went to Sea World.

Not one chief prior to Chief Kerlikowske could remember Sergeant Brady.

Sergeant Brady finally placed high on the Sergeants list by virtue of his service credits. His peers had been promoted long ago and he was competing against officers with an average of 10 years less time on the Department.

The training materials authored by Sergeant Brady are truly given out at annual training. In an effort to recycle the paper, the backs of his materials are used as scrap paper.

The recent job offers from WSP and KCSO were, in fact, for janitorial positions.

The Guardian regrets these errors and strives to verify the factual aspects of its articles whenever possible, but in actuality the creative writing campaign was perpetuated under the nose of the Editor by the Pioneer Square afternoon supervisor as a gag upon the Queen Anne afternoon supervisor. Boys will be boys!

All *Guardian* submissions are due by September 15, 2007 to spogguardian@yahoo.com



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Happy Anniversary

The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of August!

20 Years of Service
Detective Christy Robbin, CAU
Officer Tim Liston, South Precinct
Officer Don Gallagher, Evidence

15 years of Service
Sergeant Mike Teeter, SW Precinct
Detective Jeff Spong, SAU
Detective Nick Bauer, Burglary/Theft South
Detective Jason Kasner, Homicide
Detective Tom Mooney, Gang Unit
Officer Jason Chittenden, North Precinct
Officer Jason Drummond, West Precinct
Officer Yusef Edwards, Motors
Officer Steve Kauhane, East Precinct
Officer Jan Moon, West Precinct
Officer Curtis Gerry, D/C Operations
Officer Steve Pomper, East Precinct





Happy Anniversary

The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of September!

40 Years of Service
Officer Don Skaar, North Precinct

25 years of Service
Officer Glen Cook, Motors

20 years of Service
Officer Dan Templeton, East Precinct
Officer Kevin O'Neill, Traffic

15 years of Service
Sergeant Tom Mahaffey, Narcotics
Officer Suzanne Parton, CIT

10 years of Service
Officer Pete Cavinta, West Precinct
Officer Adrian Diaz, D/C Operations
Officer Jon Engstrom, Operations Task Force
Officer Ernest Jensen, South Precinct
Officer Stacy Litsjo, West Precinct
Officer Larry Longley, Southwest Precinct
Officer Tom McLaughlin, West Precinct
Officer Wade Murray, East Precinct
Officer Jason Pitts, Southwest Precinct
Officer Yvonne Tovar, East Precinct



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Bye Bye, Blue Bear

By Sergeant Joe Bauer, Southwest Precinct

After reading the latest Seattle P-I police bashing “investigation” about how we abuse our “power” as “cops”, it occurred to me that I now have to find something to replace my cute little blue bear. I really liked the little guy too. It’s so cute, I love the blue color and it even reflects light in the dark. Poor little guy will soon become reflective shavings on my driveway. So tragic!

My mind began to churn out new ideas for letting other “cops” know I’m “LE”, so I can have a chance of getting out of being arrested for DUI and other traffic offenses that we, as “cops” are apparently likely to commit. Here are some of my ideas.

I could get a sticker that says, “The Seattle P-I SUCKS”.
Nope, too many people who aren’t “cops” would want it...

let him stew for a couple of minutes and gave him an oral warning about his driving and released him. Yep, I’m guilty of using my discretion and giving professional courtesy too. The sticker worked like a charm for him though!

My IAFC stickers might look enough like the firefighter ones to fool the investigative journalists next time. Everyone would need to let their spouses and kids know that we can’t let the secret out this time. We would need to keep it inside of our Blue Walls of Secrecy, within the Blue Lines of Protection and most of all, the Blue Cone of Silence. If the word gets out again it may motivate them to uncover some other really big scandal. There have to be some “cops” who have gotten extra big scoops of ice cream for the price of a small out there somewhere.

Maybe it could say, “The Seattle Media SUCKS”.
Again, too many non “LE” folks would want them.

I could get one that’s kind of like one of those little guys going pee on something. You know, the ones that have a Ford or Chevy under it. I pictured it with a little “cop” hitting someone with a nightstick or flashlight.
Nope, too obvious...

After some long hard thought I finally came up with a really good idea. I’m going to make up some stickers that look like the ones the Firefighter’s have. The IAFF stickers. Only mine will have the letters: IAFC. I remember stopping a car for a minor traffic violation some years ago. When I approached the drivers side of the car, the irate driver said this to me: “Why the hell are you stopping me, didn’t you see the sticker, I’m A F***ing Firefighter!”

I remember taking a deep breath and saying, “Oh, I always wondered what IAFF stood for. Now, may I please have your drivers license and insurance card?” (I learned that from an old timer, worked pretty good) The rather befuddled firefighter sheepishly handed me his license and insurance card without saying anything else. I

Actually, I think I’ll just put another one of my kid’s snowboard stickers on there where my little bear was. I never get pulled over anyway. I usually drive like a grandpa, according to my wife and kids, and don’t attract too much attention in my little SUV.

Be sure to use a safety razor blade to remove your bear stickers. A little tip I learned when I removed my Ralph Nader stickers from my VW Microbus many years ago: WD-40 will loosen the adhesive without damaging the window or paint. Peel up a corner of the sticker and spray a little WD-40 on it. It should start to loosen up. When it’s most of the way off, apply some WD to a rag and hold it on the remaining sticker material for a minute or so. The rest should rub right off.

Don’t let the latest little bit of “Investigative Journalism” get you down. Just do your best and keep up the great work you do on a regular basis. There really are many people out there who support you and appreciate the work you do. Give them the best service you are able to provide while keeping yourselves safe. The effective police work and heroism you perform routinely will probably never make the *P-I* or *The Seattle Times* but that isn’t why we are here. Be safe and take care of each other out there.



Jerianne Fisher - Verizon Wireless
Business Sales Representative
Government Employee Sales
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The Neighborhood Policing Plan

By Officer Mike Severance, Board Position #5

I have tried to put this behind me, and not too many people know it, but I got thrown in jail once in the great state of Virginia. I was 4 years old. My Dad, a Marine, was stationed at Quantico. Our quarters were just up the hill from the main gate. One of my little buddies and I use to walk down the hill, sit on the wall above the gate, and watch the MP’s as they checked the cars and people coming onto the base. They blew their whistles to stop cars, and would blow them again to signal the cars to proceed. It looked like a lot of fun. And since I had my own whistle, I saw no reason why I could not join in the fun. On our next trip, I brought my whistle. An MP would blow his whistle to stop a car. I would blow my whistle and the car would go. I was having a great time, but I didn’t like the looks the MP’s were giving me. I decided it was time to run for it, but my short legs just weren’t fast enough. About half-way up the hill to my house, the biggest MP I had ever seen grabbed me. I was taken to a waiting Jeep and hauled away to the Brig. My butt still hurts every time I think about that incident and the licking my Dad gave me that night.

Since the inception of the Neighborhood Policing Plan, the Guild has been telling the brass that we do not have enough bodies to adequately staff five 10-hour shifts. It was really a no-brainer. We don’t have enough bodies to adequately staff the current three shifts, so how could we do it with five? The brass has finally realized the same thing. But it appears the brass is going ahead with the implementation of the new Patrol Sector/District boundaries. I predict that nothing will change except the beat number an officer writes on a report. Changing lines on a map will not increase the number of officers we have or how many calls for service we must handle.

As for the new patrol district boundaries and the number of patrol districts, I know that many people have spent a lot of time and energy on this project. But, as a patrol officer

with a few years experience, I am disappointed. Something is backwards. Even the sound of the words “Neighborhood Policing” cries out for more patrol districts, not fewer. The goal of “enhancing officers’ sense of responsibility for the neighborhoods they serve” cries out for more patrol districts, not fewer. The goal of “strengthening officers’ sense of ownership of the neighborhoods they serve” cries out for more patrol districts. The truth is we do not have enough bodies to staff more patrol districts. So the people of Seattle will be given 13 fewer patrol districts than we have now. The Brass wants to reduce cross district dispatching. They have accomplished that with this plan before it is even implemented. 13 fewer patrol districts means fewer lines on the map that can be crossed.

I will bite my tongue and not say what thoughts went through my mind when I first looked at the new proposed patrol district boundaries. Since I work the North Precinct where nearly 50% of Seattle’s population resides, I naturally looked at its proposed districts first. Then I looked at the others. I’ll admit that the small scale map without any street names on it has caused me to make some guesses.

I know a lot of data was fed into a computer, but computers do not possess common sense, and computers apparently don’t know what a geographical barrier is. The Ship Canal is a barrier. Four bridges can be used to drive a car from one side to the other. Interstate 5 is a barrier. Its limited overpasses and underpasses are its bridges. The concrete barrier in the middle of Aurora Avenue and which pretty much extends from Winona Avenue to Denny Way is a barrier with very limited crossing points unless you like the idea of making a U-turn on the Aurora Bridge.

Several proposed patrol districts in the North, East, West, and South

Precincts will be responsible for real estate on both sides of Interstate 5. Several patrol districts in the North and West Precincts will be responsible for real estate on both sides of Aurora Avenue, the parts of Aurora that have a concrete barrier in the middle of the road. This does not make much sense to me. If a computer cannot exercise common sense and recognize a barrier, then our administrators should.

But my eyes got the biggest when I looked at the proposed L3 district. It would, without any doubt, be the largest single patrol car district in Seattle during my career. It measures approximately 6.04 miles from its northernmost boundary to its southernmost boundary, from northern Lake City, a few blocks short of the city limits, to the southern tip of Laurelhurst. And that is only if you are a bird flying in a straight line. At its widest point east to west it measures about 2.85 miles, again in a straight line. It is larger than all of the proposed Union Sector, larger than all of the proposed Nora Sector, about the same size as the proposed John Sector, and only slightly smaller than the proposed Boy sector. It is larger than the island of Iwo Jima. It is a monster. All by itself, it covers about 20% of the North Precinct.

Neighborhood Policing? The people living in the proposed L3 neighborhood will be lucky if they ever see their neighborhood cop again. To the officer(s) who have the misfortune of being assigned to that district car, I have this advice. There is no possible way that one patrol car can effectively patrol, serve, or protect that big a piece of real estate. You will never have “ownership” of a district that big. You will never get to know the people or the businesses. There are just too many. Resolve yourselves to that from the beginning. You will be subjected to unnecessary risk in the form of ridiculously long emergency runs. If you are patrolling the north end of your district and are dispatched to an

emergency in the southern extremes of your district, it is possible that 5 cars from two different North Precinct sectors and 2 cars from an East Precinct sector could be much closer to the call than you. And as for 7-minute response times...forget it. The proposed L3 district is an aberration.

I am hopeful that the administration will exercise some common sense and make some modifications to the proposed patrol district boundaries. 13 fewer patrol districts is more than enough of a barrier to serving our citizens.

The Seattle Times published an article on August 8th. A strategic advisor to the Chief is quoted as saying that private sector jobs pay better than police work. Really? What that advisor neglected to say is that in most other cities, police work pays better than in Seattle. But I almost screwed myself into the ceiling when I read that Seattle PD has 699 patrol officers. What did Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer think when they read that deliberately misleading statement? They were thinking that SPD has 699 uniformed patrol officers responding to 911 calls for service. Nothing could be further from the truth. If we had 699 patrol officers responding to 911 calls, do you think the brass would have given up on the five 10 hour shifts? I just finished my monthly body count from the roll call sheets of all five precincts. We have 447 uniformed patrol officers assigned to marked patrol cars and being dispatched to 911 calls for service. That’s 64% of what the Brass would like the public to think we have.

The net staffing change for 2007 is a **negative 7**. The net staffing change since January 2005 is +12 or an increase of 0.38 officers per month. At that rate the last of the new officers authorized by the City will be on board in the year 2038. With our new and lowered hiring standards, maybe they will be on board sooner.

Be safe out there.

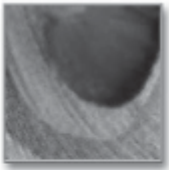
Wanted: Bowlers

By Mike Hori, SPD Retired

The South End Law Enforcement Trio bowling league will be bowling at MAGIC LANES in White Center, 10612 15th Ave SW, Seattle. The season will be starting on Wednesday, Sept 19, 2007 at 4:30 PM. The league is open to men and women of law enforcement agencies, civilian employees affiliated with law enforcement agencies, and family members. The teams consist of three bowlers, plus two alternates if needed. The teams can be any combination of all men, all women, or both. This is a handicapped league, 90% of 200, so novice bowlers are welcomed. The league starts at 4:30 PM and usually ends around 6:15 PM. The time is great for first and third watch officers, and detectives, and is close to the South and Southwest Precincts. The bowling season will be 28 weeks long, with a 1st and 2nd half, and will end on April 9, 2008.

There will be a league meeting on Wednesday, Sept 12, 2007 at 4:30 PM at the bowling alley, and following the meeting there will be FREE BOWLING. Bowlers are encouraged to show up so we can make up teams, or let us know if you have a team. If you need any more information, please contact Mike Hori (Retired) at home, 425-432-1973, or email me at horim@comcast.net.

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It's Just Around the Corner: Retiree Medical Options and What It Means for You

By Elizabeth Loy, Director of Administrative Operations

It may sometimes seem far away, but your retirement brings with it a set of critical questions that you need to consider *now* and *not* later. For those of you who are LEOFF II members, you will live a significant portion of your life in retirement from your law enforcement career. Can you retain high quality medical benefits? And if so, how will you pay for them? And for that matter, who will provide them?

One of the most difficult issues facing our membership is the fact that there are few retiree medical options currently available. SPOG has been working hard to come up with more options for you. The purpose of this article is to share with you the information we have gathered. Below is an outline of possible benefit options available for LEOFF II members if you retired *now* (2007 rates applied below). All benefits and limitations shown are per person. Later this year, we will be sending you a survey and asking for your feedback on member benefit options so that SPOG can help you prepare better for retirement.

Option #1, COBRA via the City
(Temporary only, coverage ends after 18 months; includes retirees and all eligible dependents).
City of Seattle Traditional Plan, **\$910.34/retiree/mo.**
Group Health Standard, **\$831.68/retiree/mo.**
Group Health Deductible, **\$607.55/retiree/mo.**
City of Seattle Preventive Plan, **\$1,023.48/retiree/mo.**

Option #2, LEOFF II Medical Benefits via the Pension Office
Plan Profile 1: City of Seattle Traditional
80/20 co-insurance plan
\$100 deductible (in-network)
\$400 out-of-pocket maximum (in-network)
\$2,000,000 lifetime maximum

Physician services and preventive care chiropractic paid at 80%; prescriptions \$5 co-pay generic; vision benefits included.
Monthly Cost:
\$696.50/retiree,
\$1323.77/retiree & spouse

Plan Profile 2: City of Seattle Preventive
No Deductible
\$500 out-of-pocket maximum, most costs paid at 100% thereafter
\$2,000,000 lifetime maximum
Physician services paid at 100% after \$5 co-pay; preventive care paid at 100%; prescriptions \$5 co-pay generic; vision not included.
Monthly Cost:
\$774.09/retiree,
\$1469.49/retiree & spouse

Plan Profile 3: Group Health Traditional
No Deductible
\$750 out-of-pocket maximum
\$2,000,000 lifetime maximum
Physician services paid at 100%; preventive care chiropractic services paid at 100%; prescriptions \$3 co-pay; partial vision coverage.
Monthly Cost:
\$502.44/retiree,
\$1004.88/retiree & spouse

Plan Profile 4: Group Health Deductible
\$200 deductible (does not apply to preventive care visits, and all care/services must be approved by GHC)
\$2,000 out-of-pocket maximum
\$2,000,000 lifetime maximum
Physician services paid at 100%; preventive care chiropractic services paid at 100% with \$20 co-pay; prescription \$20 co-pay;

vision included with \$20 co-pay.
Monthly Cost:
\$292.28/retiree,
\$584.56/retiree & spouse

Option #3, Purchase Benefits through the Firefighters' Family Medical Plan
(This program has not been launched yet, but is a potential future option that SPOG and SPRA are researching).
Plan Profile 5: Firefighters Family Medical Plan for Retirees
Traditional 80/20 co-insurance plan
\$500 deductible
\$1,500 annual out-of-pocket maximum
\$1,000,000 lifetime maximum
Physician services 15 visits/year; preventive care chiropractic services 10 visits per year; prescription co-pay 30% generic; 50% brand name, vision benefits.
Monthly Cost:
\$420/person,
\$840/retiree & spouse

Option #4, Purchase Individual Coverage – Examples from Regence Blue Shield
Plan Profile 6: High Deductible Catastrophic Plan, Age Based Rates, In-network
\$1,750 deductible
\$3,500 annual out-of-pocket expenses
\$1,000,000 lifetime maximum
80% coverage professional and hospital services
No prescription coverage
Monthly Cost:
\$215/person, retiree or spouse age 55-59

Plan Profile 7: Regence "Breakthru" Plans
These plans offer a range of deductibles from \$500 to \$5,000, co-insurance from 50% to 80% and various out-of-pocket limitations; rates vary accordingly. One variation is shown below, in-network:

\$500 deductible
\$2,500 annual out-of-pocket expenses
\$2,000,000 lifetime maximum
80% coverage in-network, \$20 co-pay professional services
Prescriptions \$10 co-pay generic, \$3000 annual maximum
Monthly Cost: \$521/ person, retiree or spouse age 55-59

At a minimum, a LEOFF II retiree in 2007 is going to pay \$2,580 annually for medical benefits (keep in mind none of these plans include dental) and at the maximum, retirees are looking at over \$12,000 annually. Multiply this by two if you want to cover your spouse. Keep adding to this figure the farther out you plan to retire.

In today's world, the medical benefits environment is constantly changing. It has long been a priority of your Guild to maintain high quality medical benefit options to its' members at a low cost. Other benefits may have been negated in order to maintain these current programs.

The Guild has put in place an Employee Benefit Trust that holds our Long Term Disability premium rebates. The trustees have been listening to the membership and there is a consensus that the Guild should help to solve the retiree medical crisis of LEOFF II members. The VEBA option was rejected by a majority of the membership. With that vehicle no longer an option, the trustees have gone back to the drawing board. There are no easy answers to this complex issue. Keep this in mind when you receive your survey later this year and in the meantime, drop a line to the SPOG Office or talk to one of your SPOG board members to let them know what direction you think we should go.

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SPD Officers Erik Salisbury, Scott McGlashan, SPOG Intern Becky Saucier, and Sergeant Kevin Haistings out on a sunny day at the Harbor Station.

Retired News

By Mike Germann

New Retirements

There are no new retirements to publish this month; no LEOFF I’s and no LEOFF II’s. Until the pending Seattle Police Officers’ Guild labor agreement is settled, your Police Pension Office doesn’t expect to see a lot of retirement activity (or at the most very little).

Just a reminder:
S.P.O.G. negotiators are working hard to settle this current labor dispute and deliver a new recommended agreement for a vote up or down by their members. S.P.O.G. negotiators are well aware of “escalator” pension entitlements, implications and what that means to about 1,000 of you retired Seattle Police Officers and lawful beneficiaries (widows/widowers) who are awaiting pension increases. We’ve all been through this before; this is nothing new. BE PATIENT! Your Seattle Police Pension Office staff has utmost confidence in the S.P.O.G. negotiating team. So should you.

Book Report

“Class of Twenty-Eight”
by Neil W. Moloney

Looking for a good book to read? Try Neil Moloney’s latest literary contribution, “Class of Twenty-Eight.” This is a great fiction story about the life and times of some of Seattle’s young men before and during World War II. Moloney, a retired former Chief of Detectives of the Seattle Police Department and former Chief of the Port of Seattle and the Washington State Patrol, does an outstanding job of story telling, both about Seattle’s past and Marine combat in the South Pacific, during W.W.II, all woven around the central characters.

Moloney has written other books, but “Class of Twenty-Eight” is, by far, his best literary effort. So, if you’re a book reader, get to your local book store or order this 319 page gem on-line. Once you start reading this book, you won’t want to put it down until you’ve finished each and every page. IT’S THAT GOOD!
P.S. Among others, Neil credits Clay Bean, Harry Schneider and Ray Carroll for their generous and valuable advice during the writing of this latest book.

RETIREDCITY SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING JULY 16 2007

President Ed Caalim called the meeting to order at 11:20 AM at Clair’s Pantry, July 16th 2007.

Board members present were Nick Bulpin, Mike Slessman, Pat Munter, Dick Rovig and Jerry Taylor. John Sullivan and Paul Peterson were excused. LaVelle Thresher was absent.

President Caalim stated he will step down as president due to family obligations outside of the country. He then named Jerry Taylor to serve as interim president until the December election. The naming of Taylor to serve as president was then unanimously ratified by those present.

President Caalim then named Pat Munter to assist Jerry Taylor at the LEOFF 1 Coalition meetings. This also was ratified by those present.

The resignation of Caalim was then reluctantly accepted by all present to be effective immediately. Caalim was then congratulated for the fine job he has done as President and board member for the past five years.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Bulpin
Secretary/Treasurer

RETIREDCITY SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION Minutes of the Monthly Meeting August 8th 2007

Acting Vice President, Dick Rovig called the meeting to order at noon in the dining room of the Four Seas Restaurant at 8th S. and King Street

Pat Lamphere led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call of officers showed Nick Bulpin, Mike Slessman, Jerry Taylor, Paul Peterson, and Dick Rovig present with LaVelle Thresher, John Sullivan and Pat Munter being excused.

Dick Rovig then introduced Jerry Taylor as President Pro-tem to serve until the December elections and turned the meeting over to Jerry.

President Taylor directed everyone to the minutes of the July meeting that had been distributed. Ed Turner made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Rovig and passed unanimously. Nick Bulpin gave the financial report and a motion to accept the report and pay the current bills was made by Myron Maxwell, seconded by Dick Sherwood and passed unanimously.

Jerry Taylor then gave an update on the LEOFF medical benefit study. There is move to create a statewide disability board and use surplus funds to

assist cities and counties with medical obligations. He cited IRS 401 H which provides surplus funds in a retirement system can be used to fund medical benefits if the retirement system is 120% funded. A committee of “stake holders” (cities, counties and retirees) has not yet been created by the Governor. The LEOFF 1 Coalition is hoping to appoint Dan Downs and Joe Fischnaller to serve on any committee that may be formed.

Howard Monta reminded everyone to attend the RAP picnic tomorrow (8/9/07) beginning at 10AM at the Range. Free lunch will be served at 1:15 also a raffle, games and beverages.
Nick Bulpin stated the Relief Association will be sending out invitations to the Annual Retired Officers Banquet to be held September 12th. RSVP’s will be required for the number of guests to attend. Bob Caruth reported there will be a wake for Carl Sandbeck to be held August 25th at the Four Seas restaurant. Dick Rovig will post details on the RSPOA web site.

Jerry Taylor then introduced guest speaker, Dennis Law, a long time friend of police officers who is currently running for Mayor of Renton. Dennis publishes a business journal covering south King County. He formerly published neighborhood papers from Beacon Hill to Wallingford. He related several stories of past encounters with law enforcement and shared several photos from his archive. President Taylor presented Dennis with an honorary retired police badge.

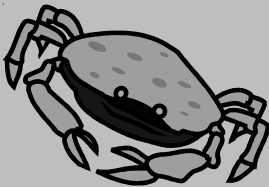
There being no further business, Dick Sherwood moved the meeting be adjourned at 12:45.

Respectfully submitted, Nick Bulpin, Secretary Treasurer.

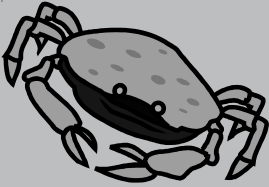
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September 2007 Retirees' Birthdays

Ed. Note: The numbers in parenthesis indicates the September birthdate.

William C. Allen (8), Suzanne E. Allshaw (13), Gordon E. Barnett (21), Howard L. Baus (5), Michael J. Bolger (28), John R. Boren (24), Robert G. Brown (26), William K. Buckwalter (11), Owen C. Burt (24), Loren B. Burtis (18), Kaaran A. Cannon (11), Ronald D. Chapman (8), Duane L. Christensen (27), John H. Collins (10), Michael J. Crist (16), Robert M. Davis (1), Millicent DeForeest (9), Nadine Dias (10), Barbara J. Dietrich (6), Anthony L. Enders (15), Brian E. Englin (15), Larry A. Estep (13), Dennis Falk (4), Philip R. Forsell (5), Alfred K. Fridell (21), Douglas M. Fritschy (10), Michael R. Gregg (25), Gordon D. Grosvenor (13), Barbara J. Grout (20), Leroy J. Habryle (29), Madeleine Hagen (14), John R. Hannah (17), Dale E. Harper (1), Thomas A. Harrigan (7), Larry L. Hay (22), William E. Henaby (7), Robert L. Hoff (28), Janice Jackson (27), Robert L. Japar (1), Thomas W. Jeffers (15), Verlin L. Judd (19), Frank B. Kampsen (22), Alan L. Kemper (23), Steven B. Knechtel (23), Margaret Knechtel (28), Chris R. Kolar (15), Duane P. Lewis (23), Charles M. Lindblom (3), Louis V. Marks (28), James I. Mason (29), David M. Mathews (1), Robert D. McNeilly (16), Charlotte Meek (21), Janet F. Miller (9), William Moore (11), David G. Murray (6), Jay A. Nicholson (17), John K. Nordlund (24), Margaret Odlin (29), Robert C. Parke (16), John D. Pedersen (2), Michael R. Petras (21), Terry R. Pope (18), Thelma L. Porter (14), Stanley Alan Price, Jr (4), David P. Prideaux (4), Leroy P. Reed (22), Bette Roscoe (17), Joseph A. Sanford (11), William D. Schenck (20), Gregory F. Seth (1), Nils R. Seth (23), Patricia M. Smith (26), Sharon S. Swindler (17), Ronald S. Sylve (7), Frances Sylvester (23), Ronald E. Testerman (9), Vernon A. Thole (17), Arthur Vanpuymbrouck (14), Michael M. Walker (25), Michael W. Ward (19), Margaret D. Waters' (12), Kathleen M. Whalen (27), Helen D. Wicklund (6), Gary D. Williams (14), Donald E. Wood (25), Patricia Ryan Wranstedt (13), Billy Wright (20), Quentin L. Youk (27), Sidney C. Zielke (9)

Last Ring



Last Ring
Charles “Charlie” E. Hill, #1674, retired Seattle Police Department sworn Communications Director (Captain), passed away at his winter home on July 27, 2007, in Casa Grande, Arizona. He was 75 years of age upon his death.

Charles E. Hill was born on February 9, 1932. He was appointed a “Patrolman” of the Seattle Police Department on December 5, 1955. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on May 1, 1966, then Lieutenant on September 19, 1970.

Charlie focused on the technical aspects of police communications and was one of the founding fathers of the initial “911” system. This lead to his being appointed a sworn director of Police Communications (equivalent to a police captain) on April 28, 1971. Charlie retired on August 7, 1978, following 23+ years of sworn service.

Charles Hill is survived by his ex-wife Joyce (Jodie), five daughters, one son, seven grandsons, two granddaughters and two great grandsons.

No funeral services are expected but there may be a gathering of family and friends later this year in the Seattle area. Awaiting notification on this.

May he rest in peace.



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Editor's Notes

By Detective Ron Smith, Pawn Shop



On August 21st the *Seattle P.I.* refused to publish photos of two suspicious men that the FBI wants to talk to regarding their recent behavior aboard state ferries, initially citing that “neither man is considered a suspect nor has either been charged with a crime.” Several local news stations broadcast the pictures of the men, as well as the *Seattle Times*, along with the FBI’s request for identifying information. Later in the same day the *P.I.* launched an apologist blog on their website, in which *P.I.* managing editor David McCumber asked, “What’s an editor to do? Ferry security is hugely important. So are civil liberties and privacy.” The *P.I.* clearly picks and chooses whose privacy they want to protect. In this case they are guarding the privacy of two very suspicious men, who may be involved in a potential terror plot aboard our ferries. A few weeks back the *P.I.* had no problem outing the blue bear sticker, which they demonized for their own agenda, jeopardizing the safety and privacy of law enforcement families all over the region. It appears as though the *P.I.* is quick to pander to possible terrorists, yet is quick to let loose as much information about those who would be called on as the first to stop any terrorist. For those of you who have not surfed the *P.I.* website and read some of their “Soundoff” blogs you have no clue what you are missing. It is there the sheeple of the region pipe off and let you know what mentality we are up against. God help us all!

Speaking of sheeple, it looks like I got Josh Feit’s goat (*The Stranger*) with my critique of his call for officers to suffer serious disciplinary ramifications if they get what he coined as a “D” from the OPA (not-sustained beef). Feit made a posting in the August 9th “SLOG,” (http://slog.thestranger.com/2007/08/police_guild_goes_after_the_stranger_and) in which he asserts that my analogy was “cute” (big surprise), and that while citizens are innocent until proven guilty, the same doesn’t apply to employees. Feit further comments that since cops are public servants, the onus is on us to disprove charges leveled by a citizen, lest there be repercussions to restore public trust. In keeping with Feit’s reasoning, cops are not citizens, rather employees and are not deemed to be innocent until proven guilty, and hold the burden to disprove a citizen’s complaint. Scary! Feit also was obviously upset at my reference of “sheeple,” and proclaimed that the entire SPD views critical community members as sheeple. After a few laughs, I sent him an e-mail clarifying that my opinion was mine and mine alone. Four days later he chimed in on the “SLOG” again (http://slog.thestranger.com/2007/08/power_to_the_sheeple), acknowledging my e-mail, and announced to the masses that I, “the editor of the Seattle cop’s union newspaper” viewed them as sheeple. So there is no confusion, let me explain MY definition of sheeple. Sheeple are those who jump to conclusions based on emotional factors, without first applying a reasoned thought process which separates fact from feeling, and who believe anything they read or see in the mainstream media. I checked and found out that *The Stranger* is on *The Guardian* subscription list. I encourage Mr. Feit and his peeps to keep on reading the voices of the rank and file; maybe then they will realize that not everyone in this town has their head buried in a dark moist place.

A sixteen-ounce triple-shot Americano at Caffé Vita costs \$3. The same drink at one of those bikini-clad women shacks costs a bit more. Drip coffee poured into an “I can man” ceramic cup by the Chief of Police is PRICELESS! Three weeks ago I attended a meeting in the Chief’s 8th floor conference room (this time I wasn’t on the grease), along with my partner and Lieutenant. When the Chief saw us he offered up a cup of coffee, and poured it himself. I got the “I can man cup,” while Mike Edwards got a cup adorned with the logo of the Chicago PD Superintendent. The Chief joked that the Chicago boss, Phil Cline had just been fired. The man definitely has a great sense of humor, and having him pour my coffee was a worthwhile experience.

Let us keep Officer Wayne Johnson and his family in your thoughts and prayers, as Wayne’s cousin, Detective John Smith of the Bastrop (LA) Police was shot and killed in the line of duty on August 10th while investigating a vehicle wanted in connection with a Texas homicide. Detective Smith’s partner, Detective Chuck Wilson was also killed in the incident, and two paramedics were wounded. To date this year, 47 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty by gunfire, compared to 49 in all of 2006.

Until next month, when the pigskin returns to the gridiron, be safe out there! Dot those I’s and cross those T’s, don’t give the sheeple any reason to cause you grief! Feel free to contact me with your comments and suggestions at spogguardian@yahoo.com. “Ignorance, the root and the stem of every evil.” – Plato.

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- Labor Day (SPOG Office Closed)**
Monday, September 3rd
- Seattle Police Relief Association board meeting at the SPRAG Office**
Wednesday, September 12th
- Retired Officers’ Banquet**
Wednesday, September 12th at 1800 hours at the Seattle Police Pavilion
- Seattle Police Officers’ Guild general membership meeting at the SPOG Office**
Wednesday, September 26th at 2000 hours

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